

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim 51 has been amended to clarify that a point fastener occupies only a small area of the panel. This is important for preserving maximum visibility through the panel. See page 1, lines 17-20.

New Claims 71-72 recite that the material is a transparent glazing, in particular glass. Basis for these claims is believed to be clearly evident from the specification.

The present invention can fix a panel to a bearing structure by point fastener relying on forces extending roughly in the plane of the panel (page 2, lines 12-15), so that the additional thickness required for fixing is minimal. To this end, it is based on a point fastener having anchoring points configured to engage contact regions of the panel, wherein an adjusting device applies a force to draw the first and second anchoring parts toward one another. Therefore, upon the application of the force in a direction parallel to the faces of the panel and along a line connecting the anchoring parts, the anchoring parts will be drawn toward one another and will thereby bear against the interposed portion of the panel.

Claim 51 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 1,789,740 (Gelette). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gelette is directed to the securement of a vehicle registration plate using clamping members 1-2 that clamp opposing sides of the vehicle registration plate, and so the clamp extends across the height of the plate. Thus, while the clamp has first and second anchoring parts and an adjusting device, they are not a part of a “point fastener” that occupies only a small area of the panel. Instead, the fastener mechanism extends across the height of the plate and would block visibility if applied to a glazing.

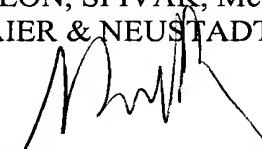
Claim 51 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 1,938,541 (Oishei). Here again, however, the plates 35-36 having flanges 46 in the mirror mounting of Oishei extend across the height of the mirror and are not a point fastener.

Concerning the rejection of dependent Claims 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Oishei in view of U.S. patent 1,538,338 (LaHodny), it is noted that LaHodny also mounts a mirror via opposite edges, and so is also not a point fastener. Accordingly, LaHodny does not overcome the shortcomings of Oishei with respect to Claim 51 from which Claims 54-55 depend.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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